(c) and (d) The Government is concerned about the increase in food prices and has taken several measures to moderate the rise in prices of essential commodities. These include the measures to augment availability of cereals by increasing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and procurement of wheat for additional allocation under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The other measures include ban on export of wheat and rice, zero import duties on essential food items like sugar, rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and maize, permitting the public sector undertakings to import pulses etc. National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is being implemented in 312 identified districts of 17 States from Rabi 2007-08 aiming at achieving an additional production of 20 million tonnes of foodgrains, comprising 10 million tonnes of rice, 8 million tones of wheat and 2 million tonnes of pulses by the end of Eleventh Plan (20011-12).

Social discontent and extremism

3165. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert committee set up by the Planning Commission in May 2006 to examine the development process and identitfy the factors behind the increasing social discontent and extremism has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the gist of its findings and recommendations made; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Expert Group set up by the Planning Commission in May 2006 on "Development Issues to deal with Causes of Discontent, Unrest and Extremism" submitted its report titled "Development Challenges in Extremist Affected Areas" in April 2008.

(b) The recommendations of the Report are grouped under the following heads, namely,(i) effective implementation of protective legislations; (ii) Land related measures; (iii) recommendations relating to land acquisition and rehabilitation and resettlement; (iv) livelihood security; (v) universalisation of basic social services to standards; (vi) issues related to the Provisions of Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996(PESA); (vii) State response and (viii) strengthening the planning system and governance issues.

(c) The Government's policy is to have a continuously evolving strategy based on consultations with the State Governments and administration at the field level in the background of the recommendations of the Expert Group. Hence a holistic approach is being adopted which covers issues of security, development, administration and public perception. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in this regard, 33 districts, which have been worst affected by Left Wing Extremism, have been identified for focused attention and development efforts are being closely reviewed.